AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

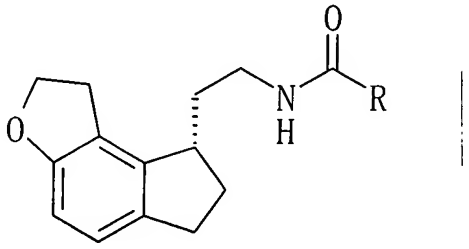
1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, a fatty acid ester, a polyhydric alcohol and lauric diethanolamide ~~or a compound including the same~~.

3. (Original) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 2, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound having a melatonin ML_1 receptor agonist activity.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group.

6. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

7. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide.

8. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is an ester of a carboxylic acid having 6 to 22 carbon atoms and an alkyl alcohol having 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

9. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, butyl myristate, or diethyl sebacate.

10. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate.

11. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, glycerin or polyethylene glycol.

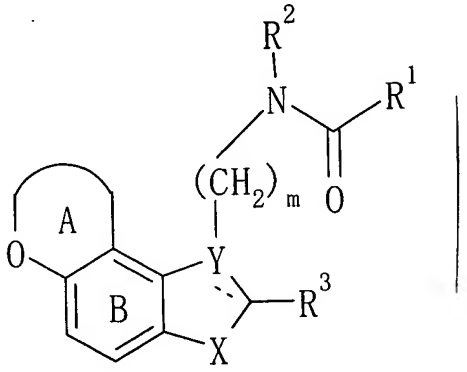
12. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is propylene glycol.

13. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol.

14. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of about 200 to about 1000.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity and lauric diethanolamide ~~or a compound including the same~~ and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4, O or S in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH_2, Y is C or CH;

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····· represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

20. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

21. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 which is a skin plaster.

22. (Currently amended) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein the compound having the melatonin receptor agonist activity and the lauric diethanolamide ~~or the compound including the same,~~ and the optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, are contained in a skin contact member.

23. (Currently amended) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, wherein the compound having the melatonin receptor agonist activity, a fatty acid ester, a

polyhydric alcohol and the lauric diethanolamide ~~or the compound including the same,~~ are contained in the skin contact member.

24. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, wherein the skin contact member comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of fatty acid ester with respect to the weight of the skin contact member.

25. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, wherein the skin contact member comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of polyhydric alcohol with respect to the weight of the skin contact member.

26. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, wherein the skin contact member comprises about 1 to about 15% by weight of lauric diethanolamide with respect to the weight of the skin contact member.

27. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, wherein the skin contact member includes an adhesive agent.

28. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 27, wherein the adhesive agent is an acrylic adhesive agent.

29. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, wherein the skin contact member comprises about 0.01 to about 70% by weight of the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity with respect to the weight of the skin contact member.

30. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 27, wherein the skin contact member comprises about 5 to about 99% by weight of the adhesive agent with respect to the weight of the skin contact member.

31. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, which comprises about 0.01 to about 100 mg/cm^2 of the compound having the melatonin receptor agonist activity per unit skin contact surface of the skin contact member.

32. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, wherein the skin contact member further comprises a filler.

33. (Original) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 32, wherein the filler is silicon dioxide.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood for about 6 hours to about 12 hours.

36. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood until about 1 to about 2 hours before waking up.

37. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17, wherein an effective blood concentration of the compound having the melatonin receptor agonist activity exhibits a one peak pattern within 12 hours after administration.

38. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 37, wherein the effective blood concentration of the compound having the melatonin receptor agonist activity peaks within about 10 hours after administration.

39. (Previously presented) A method of treating diseases related to melatonin, which comprises administrating the percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.

40. (Previously presented) A method for percutaneous absorption of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering the percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.